

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY DOBRYNIN TALK FEBRUARY 21

1. DOBRYNIN CAME IN AT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST AND
FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

2. HORN: THE SECRETARY REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF AARON'S
MEETING WITH MENGISTU, NOTING THAT MENGISTU HAD REPEATED
HIS ASSURANCE THAT ETHIOPIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS
BEYOND ITS OWN BORDER BUT WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE SOMALIS
WITHDRAWN FROM THE OGADEN. MENGISTU HAD INDICATED THAT ANY
INITIATIVE AT PRESENT WOULD HAVE TO BE THROUGH THE OAU, AND
THAT EMISSARIES HAD BEEN SENT TO GARBA IN LAGOS. MENGISTU
HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE A US AMBASSADOR, AND THE SUPPLY OF
NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT WAS DISCUSSED. THE CONVERSATIONS HAD
BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS OPEN. THE
SECRETARY REPORTED THAT THE SOMALIS HAD BEEN URGED TO
WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, AND HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
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THE CONFLICT COULD SPILL ACROSS THE BORDER. HE URGED THAT
THE USSR JOIN IN PUTTING MAXIMUM EFFORTS BEHIND THE OAU
INITIATIVE FOR CEASEFIRE AND MEDIATION.

3. DOBRYNIN SAID THE USSR WAS PREPARED TO DO SO,
PARTICULARLY BECAUSE IT BELIEVES NOTHING USEFUL CAN
PRESENTLY BE ACHIEVED AT THE UNSC.

4. ASAT. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE PRESENTING A PAPER TO THE SOVIET UNION, PROBABLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK, WITH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR A MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. ISRAELI NUCLEAR WEAPONS. DOBRYNIN GAVE THE SECRETARY A NON-PAPER ASKING FOR CLARIFICATIONS OF CIA PRESS REPORTS THAT ISRAEL POSSESSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND URGING US INFLUENCE TO GAIN ISRAELI ACCESSION TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE SRAELIS HAD DENIED THE POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; THAT THE CIA HAD INDICATED THAT ISRAEL HAD THE CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING THEM, BUT WAS DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT HAD ALREADY DONE SO. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY THE PAPER AND REPLY.

6. UN CHARTER REVISION. DOBRYNIN ALSO GAVE THE SECRETARY A PAPER, IN RUSSIAN, AGREEING WITH THE US POSITION ON NOT UNDERTAKING A REVISION OF THE UN CHARTER AT THE PRESENT TIME. (A SIMILAR PAPER IS APPARENTLY BEING PRESENTED TO OTHER CAPITALS.)

7. INDIAN OCEAN. DOBRYNIN SAID CONVERSATIONALLY THAT MENDELEVICH WAS DISAPPOINTED AT THE SMALL PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF WARNKE EVEN TO SET A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

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8. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE VISIT TO MOSCOW. DOBRYNIN UNDERSTOOD THAT THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAD AN INTEREST IN VISITING MOSCOW, AND ASKED FOR GUIDANCE. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOME SELECTED MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE MAKE SUCH A VISIT.

9. SOVIET SALT COMPLIANCE. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, SHULMAN TOLD DOBRYNIN THAT A REPORT WAS BEING PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN A FEW DAYS THAT WOULD ANSWER CHARGES OF SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT AGREEMENT. SHULMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE US WAS SENSITIVE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SCC PROCEEDINGS, IN WHICH THESE ISSUES WERE RESOLVED, AND WHILE THE PAPER WOULD DRAW UPON THE SCC PROCEEDINGS, IT WOULD AVOID UNNECESSARY DETAIL ABOUT THEM. DOBRYNIN SAID THIS SOUNDED FINE TO HIM, AND THAT HE WOULD INFORM MOSCOW, BUT HE ANTICIPATED NO OBJECTIONS. SHULMAN SAID

THAT HE WOULD SEND DOBRYNIN A COPY OF THE PAPER WHEN IT WAS READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS. VANCE

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